

AN ANCIENT RELIC.

Interesting Mementoes of the
"Father of His Country."

REVOLUTIONARY INCIDENTS.

We publish herewith the fac-simile of a letter from one of whom it has been written. "Masons exult that the name of Washington stood enrolled on the list of brethren, and they will cherish the remembrance of his virtues and his services as a rich legacy for their emulous example."

In January, 1783, certain members of the fraternity in New York forwarded to their illustrious fellow workman a number of Masonic ornaments, with an address expressive of their admiration for his character as a man and a Mason. It brought forth the above reply.

It will be observed that the letter as it has come down to us is written all over with the marks of old age. The original, though carefully transmitted from generation to generation, is dim, discolored and bears the peculiar brownish tint that one may see in ancient books. It is likewise creased and worn, and here and there is broken, yet, as is illustrated in our cut, tender hands have reverently sought to check the ravages of time and prevent further decay. We refer to the bits of paper which before the majority of our readers were born were used to unite the discolored seams. It will be noticed that in the left hand lower corner of the first page is a peculiar knob-like figure. This represents a fold of Washington's hair.

Few of the writings of the Father of his Country contain more in a small space that is characteristic of him as a patriot and a Mason than does this letter. He says:—"If my endeavors to avert the evil with which this country was threatened by a deliberate plan of tyranny should be crowned with the success that is wished, the praise is due to the Grand Architect of the Universe, who did not see fit to suffer his superstructures and justice to be subjected to the ambition of the princes of this world, or to the rot of oppression in the hands of any person upon the earth."

In 1790, fourteen years after the above words were written, and when his second term was drawing to a close, a committee was appointed to form an address to be presented on the ensuing Feast of St. John, December 27, to the Great Master Workman, our illustrious Brother Washington, on the occasion of his intended retirement from public labors. The address was presented, and elicited the following reply:—

"FELLOW CITIZENS AND BROTHERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA:—I have received your address with all the feelings of brotherly affection, mingled with those sentiments for the society which it was calculated to excite.

"To have been in any degree an instrument in the hands of Providence to promote order and union, and erect upon a solid foundation the true principles of government, is only to have shared with many others in a labor the result of which, let us hope, will prove through all ages a sanctuary for brothers and a lodge for the virtues.

"Permit me to reciprocate your prayers for my temporal happiness, and to supplicate that we may all meet hereafter in that eternal temple whose builder is the Great Architect of the Universe."

On the 14th of December, 1790, the "Great Master Workman" died, and in one of the funeral orations incident to the sad occasion we find the following eloquent tribute to and description of his Masonic character:—

"Animated with a generous philanthropy our deceased brother early sought admission into our ancient and honorable fraternity, at once to enable him to cherish with advantage its heaven-born principles and enlarge the sphere of their operations.

"He cultivated our art with arduous attention, and never lost an opportunity of advancing the interests or promoting the honor of the craft. While Commander-in-Chief of the American Revolutionary army he countenanced the establishment, and encouraged the labors of a travelling lodge among the military. He wisely considered it a school of urbanity, well calculated to disseminate those mild virtues of the heart so ornamental to the human character, and so peculiarly useful to correct the ferocity of soldiers and alleviate the miseries of war. The cares of his high office precluded his engaging in the duties of the chair, yet he indulged frequent opportunities of visiting the lodge, and thought it no derogation from his dignity there to stand on a level with the brethren. True to our principles on all occasions, an incident once occurred which enabled him to display their influence to his foes. A body of American troops in some successful encounter with the enemy possessed themselves, among other booty, of the jewels and furniture of a British travelling lodge of Masons. This property was immediately directed by the Commander-in-Chief to be entrusted under a flag of truce to its former proprietors, accompanied by a message purporting that the Americans did not make war upon institutions of benevolence.

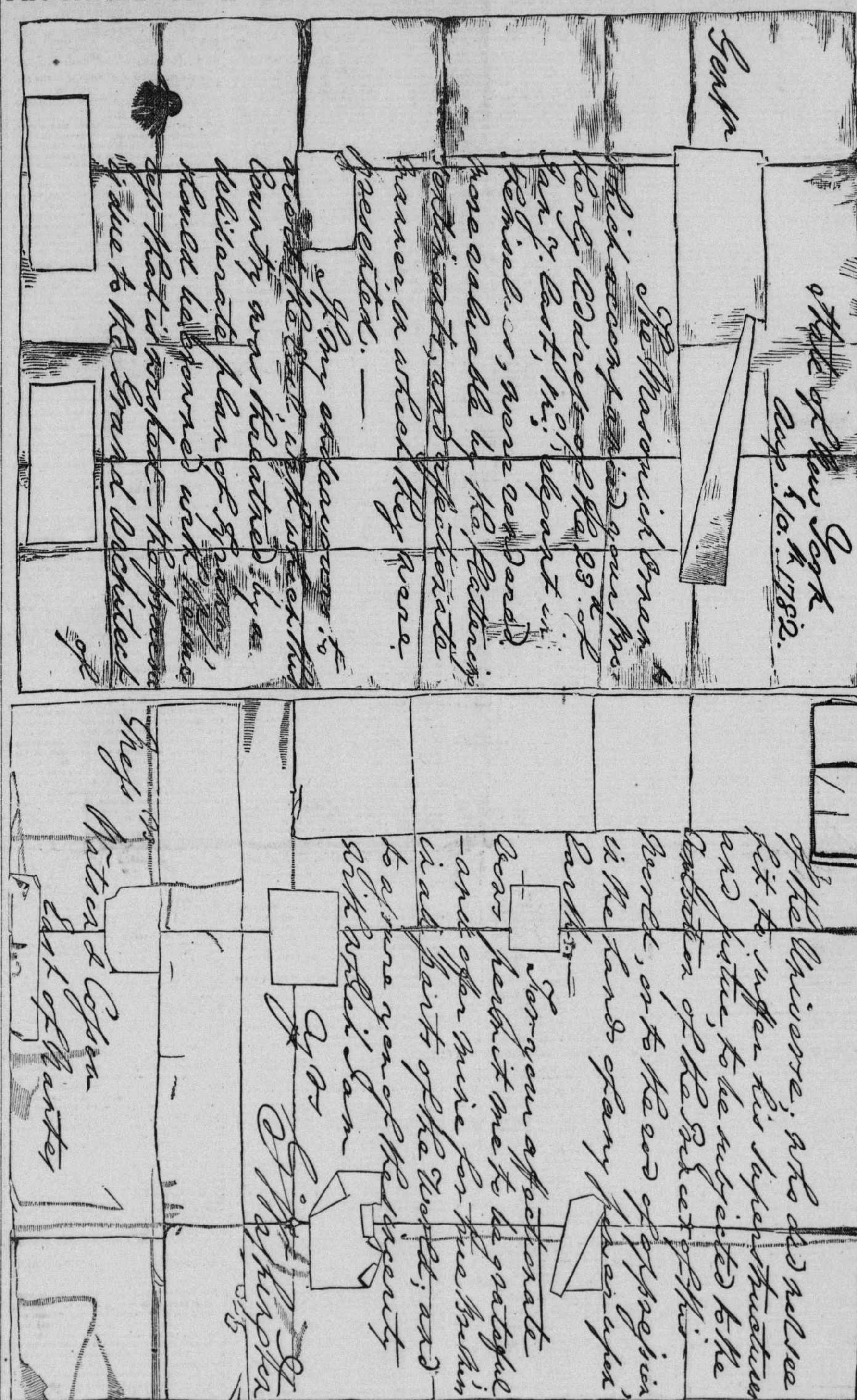
"Of his attachment to our Order it is not necessary that we should dilate. It is a part of the written history which links his name with undying immortality. His letters and responses on frequent occasions breathe throughout the spirit of brotherly love, and evince a natural aptitude for the tenets of our royal art which has rarely been equalled and never surpassed. Nothing can more highly conduce to the honor and prosperity of Masonry than a successful imitation and emulation of his bright example."

AN INCIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

Montgomery Lodge No. 68, of this city, has in its possession several mementoes of the Revolutionary war of a very interesting character. While the army was encamped in New Jersey a party of American troops was sent out on a foraging expedition, and on their way fell in with a number of British soldiers, who had been placed on guard over some baggage which had been removed to a distant place. A skirmish ensued, and they were taken prisoners and, with their baggage, carried to the American army. On an examination of the baggage a Templar's sash and a Master's apron were found, which excited to some surprise among the soldiers, and were immediately carried to the tent of the Commander-in-Chief. As soon as his eyes fell upon them he gave immediate instruction that the baggage should be carefully protected from injury; that inquiries should be made after the owner of these articles, and, if found, that he be requested to repair immediately to his tent. The latter soon made his appearance. Kind words and friendly greetings attended his reception. He was treated with the utmost care while a prisoner, and was soon after sent home to England on parole, attended by all the comforts and conveniences which it was possible to bestow upon him in those times of trouble. This person was Sergeant Kelly, of the British army, who, after his arrival home, lived to a good old age, and preserved that sash and apron with the greatest care. On his dying bed, surrounded by his kindred, and among the number was an old and tried friend, a brother of the mystic tie, he ordered the sash and apron to be produced, and calling his old friend and brother to his side exacted a promise from him to forward, after his death, the same to Montgomery Lodge, in the city of New York, with an accompanying letter, stating it to be a memento of the kindness and fraternal regards of George Washington toward a humble brother and a stranger, and as a testimonial that the memory of the just is blessed. These relics were presented to Montgomery Lodge in 1838, where they now remain and are preserved with the greatest care.

"THE GREAT MASTER WORKMAN."

FAC-SIMILE OF A MASONIC LETTER OF GEORGE WASHINGTON.



WASHINGTON'S WAR LODGE AT MORRISTOWN, N. J.

The great Order which claims an existence away down the centuries further back than even the building of King Solomon's Temple, and which to-day will furnish striking and imposing proof of its great power and growth in this country, has a record even in New Jersey enriched with precious recollections of the "Father of his Country," the illustrious Franco-American patriot of Washington, General Marquis de Lafayette, as well as great humanizing and professional influences. As in New York and the other States, so in New Jersey, the tiny Masonic acorn planted centuries ago has grown into a great, powerful oak, whose branches overspread the entire State from the Hudson to the Delaware and from the hills of Sussex to the white shore fringes of Cape May. The order in New Jersey includes now, as it has ever done, a large share of the most distinguished and most highly respected citizens. On its rolls are to be found, besides the names of Washington and Lafayette, those of governors, senators, congressmen, clergymen, editors, judges and the most noted of lawyers, leading manufacturers and mechanics. Among Masons the brethren of New Jersey are

NOTED FOR THEIR PROFICIENCY and great exactness in "working the degrees" and for their comparative freedom from members who are "not in good standing."

THE OLDEST LODGE in the State is St. John's, No. 1, of Newark, a lodge which, for some years past, has been strongly tinged with old loyalty, but which, nevertheless, has a record more brightly illuminated than any other Jersey lodge. St. John's

THE MEDALLION.

In the antique frame which encloses the letter of Washington, above printed, is a medallion portrait of the "Great Master Workman." We have not attempted to reproduce the picture, for it is ancient and faded, but upon the back of it is an inscription, of which the following is a fac-simile. It will, doubtless, be treasured by all who revere the mementoes of the past.

The GOD Like
WASHINGTON
did it, O'ne 1799
ALL AMERICAN
The within is the best likeness
I have seen. The hair is of his
own head, the will increase his
with time. I am not regret
his may be preserved to succeed
ing Generations. The hair was
presented to me by Mr. J. H. H.
on Aug. 1st 1810
This may certify that the
within is the best likeness
of George Washington in a lifetime
as his own hair. Aug. 1st 1810
J. H. H.

is not the first established lodge, though it is thirteen or fourteen years older than the Republic; but it is the oldest now in existence in the State. There was a St. John's before it, but that died out, and in its stead sprang up the present St. John's. From its relations with George Washington and Lafayette, which hereafter will be described, this venerable lodge is not only a subject of great interest to the entire Masonic fraternity, but possesses

A NATIONAL INTEREST.

Its first meeting took place on May 13, 1761, at a tavern in Newark, called the "Rising Sun." Its first officers were William Tuckey, Worshipful Master; Lewis Ogden, Senior Warden; James Nuttman, Junior Warden; Gabriel Ogden, Treasurer; Moses Ogden, Secretary. Among its charter members was the Rev. Mr. Brown, rector of Trinity church, Newark. He was greatly revered by the brethren, for the records show that on St. John's Day, in 1762, he was presented with a rich suit of sacerdotal robes, costing \$19 10s. for which presentation the lodge received "his and his congregation's thanks." During the war of the Revolution a few members of St. John's Lodge took sides with King George; but, to their honor be it said, the great majority cast their lot with their country and furnished both officers and privates for the American Army under Washington. Few meetings were held during those times that truly tried men's souls; but the lodge points with pardonable and even laudable pride to the fact that its records were written, not on the old English stamped paper, which George Cato's administration vainly tried to force on the American people, but on sheets which to this day bear the proud federal eagle of the new-born Republic.

WASHINGTON, LAFAYETTE AND ST. JOHN'S. The initiation of Lafayette into the Masonic

Order took place in this country when he was just emerging into manhood. He was within four months of being twenty-one when Fredericksburg Lodge, in Virginia, entered him as an "apprentice Mason" under a special dispensation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. It was not until 1790 that he was "raised to the degree of a Master Mason," and given authority to bestow the badge "more ancient than the Golden Fleece and more honorable than the Star and Garter or any other emblematic honor of prince or potentate." This event took place at Morristown, N. J., in a lodge organized under a traveling warrant, General Washington being present. St. John's lays reasonable claim to the honor of making Lafayette a Mason, forasmuch as her jewels were used on the occasion, as is set forth in an emanation of a St. John's member as follows:—

When Washington with mystic rites
By Morris' camp fire's lurid lights
The sacred altar pure and bright of Masonry
erected;

St. John's her jewels gladly sent
To grace that army lodge intent
With joy we hailed the great event of Lafayette
initiated.

The jewels referred to are entered upon St. John's records as follows:—"Twenty-four aprons, two chains, truncheons, four large candles, three large candle moulds, one silk pedestal cloth, bound with silver lace; a damask cushion, a silver key, a blue ribbon, striped with black, and a silver level, square and compass, with blue ribbon." Of these articles the only one now in possession of the lodge is one of the truncheons. Some years ago the lodge room of St. John's was broken into by thieves and all the jewels were carried off, including those used by General Washington in the ceremony of making Lafayette a Master Mason—all but the truncheon referred to. The thieves, doubtless, sold the silver jewels for old silver, ignorant of their hundred-fold preciousness to Freemasons. When Lafayette revisited this country after the war for independence he attended a communication of St. John's Lodge, on which occasion the jewels used at Morristown in 1786 were again used. The chair Lafayette sat in as Master of St. John's for the time being is still preserved by the lodge and held in great reverence. But the brightest page in St. John's history is to be hereafter rewritten. This lodge lays lawful claim to having been the first organization of any kind in this country to

CELEBRATE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The occasion of its doing so was on February 22, 1792, seven years prior to the death of their most illustrious brother, the Father of his Country and the hero of the Revolution. Washington died December 19, 1799, and St. John's Lodge postponed its customary festivities on St. John's Day and, instead, turned the occasion into one of deep mourning for the loss sustained by it in common with the whole country. The following 22d of February, 1800, the lodge celebrated, for the second time, the birthday of Washington. The celebration was one of great solemnity. Among those taking leading parts in it were the Right Rev. Bishop Ogden, of the Episcopal church; Rev. Dr. McWhorter, the distinguished Irish-American Presbyterian of Newark—one of whose streets is named after him—Judge Boudinot, Dr. Burnet and a host of distinguished brethren. The oration was delivered by William Halser, an eloquent Jersey lawyer of that day. Ever since the 22d of February has been annually commemorated by the lodge.

The lodge has ever held high repute in and out of Masonic circles, and has on its roll of membership the names of some of the very best citizens of Newark for the last 114 years and even more. It went on for many years prospering and to prosper. In the year 1823, however, so great an outcry had been raised against Masonry that St. John's officers deemed it imprudent to celebrate St. John's Day with the customary procession, &c. General Lafayette's visit the same year had the effect of quieting the popular outbreak and St. John's increased its membership. Soon after however, the Morgan excitement and the fury against the Masons broke out with increased force. The Order was denounced in press and pulpit. Members were assailed in the streets and lodge rooms attacked with stones and other missiles. Many lodges were closed. Between the years 1828 and 1833 St. John's Lodge had not more than a dozen meetings. Not a single application for membership was made during the interval. On January 4, 1834 the lodge formally decided to hold no more meetings until the storm should blow over; and it was not until December 23, 1838, that the lodge reorganized and resumed its "regular communications." On the occasion of the reorganization Grand Master John S. Barry presided and a communication was read from the Grand Lodge of the State permitting St. John's to resume its labors. Since then the affairs of the lodge have prospered so that it is now the mother lodge of quite a family of lodges in Newark and other parts of the State. There is but one more important fact in St. John's history to relate. Out of compliment to Grand Master Brester, member of Congress in 1787, it waived its title to No. 1 in favor of Brester Lodge. In 1842, however, St. John's resumed its original title of No. 1. It is thus shown, in the foregoing matter of Masonic record, that Jersey Masons have a full title to a front rank among the brethren and also in the Centennial history of the Republic.

MASONRY IN THE OLD WORLD.

In England Freemasonry has, from early times, occupied a prominent position, a direct line of Grand Masters being traced back to A. D. 597, at which time Austin the monk carried the faith and from that time many eminent men have occupied the Oriental chair. The office-bearers for 1874-5 are:—Grand Master, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K. G.; Deputy Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon; the Right Hon. Lord Henry Thynne, M. P., Senior Grand Warden. Under the registry of England there are 1,345 lodges and 91,750 members, which membership includes lodges in Australia, New Zealand, India, China, New South Wales, Spain, South Africa, Burma, Jamaica, Barbadoes, Demarara, Brazil and other countries.

SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland has for its Grand Master, Sir M. H. Stuart-Stewart, Bart.; Deputy Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Rothes, 419 lodges and 21,090 members. The Grand Master of Ireland is His Grace the Duke of Leinster; Deputy Grand Master, Robert William Skeikton; Senior Grand Warden, Lord Vincent Powerscourt, K. P.; 372 lodges and 18,400 members.

GERMANY, ITALY, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

The Grand Lodge of Prussia has for officers His Royal Majesty King William I., Protector; the Crown Prince Frederick William, Deputy Protector; 309 lodges and 33,193 members. Italy has 65 lodges, 141 chapters and 12,083 members. Spain has 108 lodges and 4,200 members. Portugal's chief officers are Comte de Paraty, peer of the kingdom, sovereign Grand Commander; Conde de Silva Mendes Leal Honor, Minister of State, Deputy Grand Commander; 37 lodges and 2,800 members.

MASONRY IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

France has 266 lodges, 10,800 members; Belgium, 74 lodges, 2,185 members; Switzerland, 29 lodges, 1,800 members; Norway and Sweden, 25 lodges, 10,500 members; Hungary, 33 lodges; Turkey, 14 lodges; Louisiana, 2 lodges; Denmark, 9 lodges; Greece, 8 lodges; The Netherlands, 96 lodges; Turkey in Asia, 10 lodges; China, 9 lodges; India, 45 lodges; Burma, 8 lodges; 12274, 13 lodges; Singapore, 3 lodges; Japan, 6 lodges; Jerusalem, 1 lodge; South Africa, 25 lodges; Liberia (Africa), 2 lodges; Persia, 20,000 members; Arabia, 20,000 members; New South Wales, 33 lodges; New Zealand, 30 lodges; India, 63 lodges; South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, 95 lodges.

Following are statements of the number of lodges and membership in North and South America and adjacent islands, carefully culled from the most reliable sources of information:—United States, 8,099 lodges, 324,649 members; Nova Scotia, 63 lodges, 3,113 members; British Columbia, 10 lodges, 510 members; Canada (Ontario), 223 lodges, 14,500 members; Quebec, 37 lodges, 1,743 members; New Brunswick, 23 lodges, 1,041 members; Mexico, 13 lodges, 624 members; Haiti, 18 lodges; Cuba, 7 lodges; Costa Rica, 2 lodges; Nicaragua, 3 lodges; Venezuela, 55 lodges; New Grenada, 24 lodges; 23 lodges; 13 lodges; 17 lodges; Uruguay, 15 lodges; St. Domingo, 6 lodges; San Salvador, 1 lodge; Guatemala, 1 lodge; Panama, 3 lodges; 13 lodges; 13 lodges; 26 lodges; Peru, 71 lodges; Argentine Confederation, 12 lodges; Brazil, 104 lodges; Sandwich Islands, 1 lodge; Prince Edward's Island, 6 lodges; Nassau, 6 lodges.